

U.S. Appl't No.: 10/048,123  
Filed: December 3, 2001

objections or concerns, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

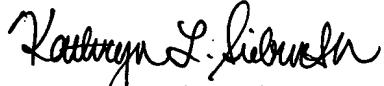
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 , the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is also enclosed. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as an admission that any particular listed reference is effective prior art or discloses or renders obvious any aspect of the claimed invention.

This statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(2), before the mailing date of a Final Office action or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance. Please charge the \$180.00 fee specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to the Deposit Account No. 19-2570.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Please charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to the indicated Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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